"This is a brave new run for the Armored Avenger, and it's off to a roaring start."

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INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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MARQUEZ
PONSOR

REBOOT. MARVEL

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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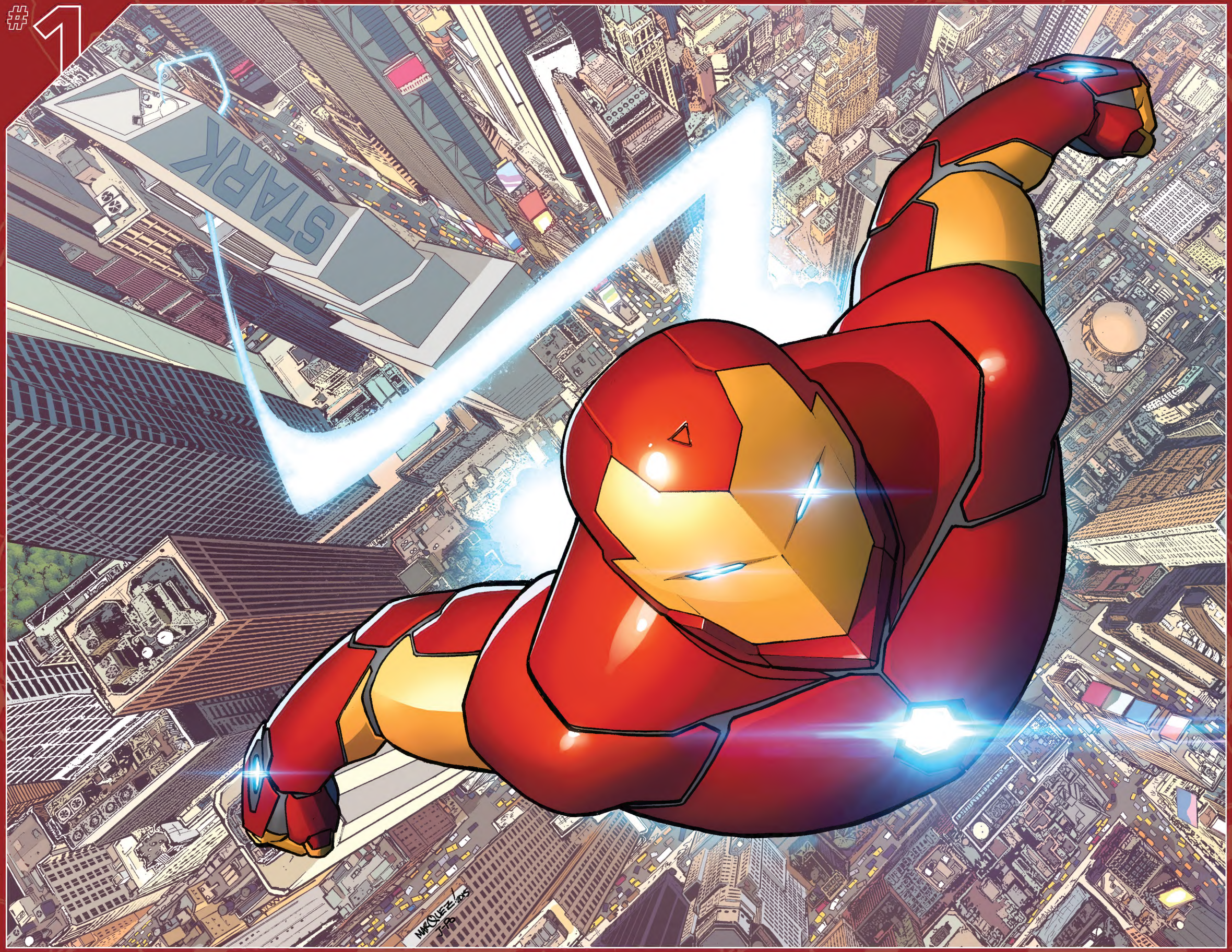


INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION

Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger

IRON MAN.

BEIJING.

SHOW ME.

HERE.
THAT'S IT?
ALL OF IT.
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?
WHY?
I WANT TO KNOW.
BECAUSE A.I.M. IS A BUNCH OF WACKADOOS AND I'VE WASTED HALF MY LIFE THERE.
AND I JUST WANT A BUYOUT BIG ENOUGH TO DISAPPEAR...
...IN STYLE.
I *DESERVE* THAT MUCH.
IS IT REAL?
OH, IT'S REAL.
BECAUSE IF IT'S NOT...
YOU'LL FIND ME AND KILL ME.
YES.
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.
OPEN IT.
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
CLICK
CLACK

SEE? REAL.

CAN I HAVE MY MONEY AND GET THE HELL OUT OF--?

FTTT

CLICK CLACK

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS YEARS AGO.

I GET SO BUSY.

SAVING THE WORLD.

AVENGING. GUARDING.

PUTTING OUT FIRES.

(METAPHORICAL AND REAL ACTUAL FIRES.)

REELING FROM THE FACT THAT MY PARENTS AREN'T REALLY MY PARENTS.

THEN COMPLETELY NOT DEALING WITH THE FACT THAT MY PARENTS AREN'T REALLY MY PARENTS *ON ANY LEVEL.*

I'M OUT THERE-- GIVING THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT.

NEW YORK BU

TONY STAR

YESTERDAY'S FUTUR

Is the Iron Age ov

(OR WHAT THEY THINK THEY WANT...)

SAVING THE WORLD, PUNCHING THE BAD GUY... AND BEFORE I KNOW IT THIS ONCE-GROUNDBREAKING-PIECE-OF-TECH SUIT THAT DEFINES ME IS OLD HAT.

IT'S CLICHÉ.

SOME 15-YEAR-OLD AT M.I.T. REVERSE ENGINEERS IT ON A DARE AND POSTS IT ONLINE.

(DICK.)

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SO AHEAD OF THE CURVE NO ONE ELSE CAN EVEN SEE THE CURVE.

BUT IT'S MY FAULT.

I *PROMISED* MYSELF I WOULD SPEND SOME SHOP TIME EVERY WEEK.

I *PROMISED.*

FIRST OF ALL, I'M A BETTER PERSON TO BE AROUND WHEN I SPEND A LITTLE TIME IN MY CHURCH.

THIS IS MY MEDITATION.

THIS IS ALONE TIME WITH MY FAVORITE PERSON. ME.

(IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE.)

BUT I *NEED* THIS TIME FOR ME AND I NEED IT FOR HIM.

MY ARMOR NEEDS TO GROW AND EVOLVE. IT NEEDS TO SURPRISE EVERYONE AND AT THE SAME TIME BE THAT THING EVERYONE CAN COUNT ON.

IT'S ALL MY METAPHORS.

AND I'VE HAD THESE NEW IDEAS FOR THIS GUY ROLLING AROUND IN MY HEAD FOR MONTHS AND IT'S WELL PAST TIME I--

OH...

I--I THINK I DID IT.

THIS--THIS WILL WORK, WON'T IT?

DAMN.

I WOULD TOTALLY KISS ME RIGHT NOW IF NOT FOR MY FEAR OF BEARD BURN.

MY NEW ARMOR.

I FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO MERGE ALL MY DIFFERENT ARMOR MODES INTO ONE.

ARMOR THAT CAN CHANGE SHAPE AND COLOR SCHEME BASED ON MISSION STATS.

ARMOR NOT ATTACHED TO MY BIOLOGY IN THAT WAY THAT FREAKS JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY OUT BUT IS COMPLETELY ATTACHED TO MY BRAIN SYNAPSES.

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS OUT.

I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS OUT.

NO, YOU'RE NOT.

FRIDAY, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN NOT REALLY SITTING THERE?

I DIDN'T CREATE YOUR HOLO-A.I. TO CREEP ME OUT.

THE ENTIRE TIME.

NO, YOU CREATED ME TO BE A LITTLE PAL WHO HELPS YOU KEEP YOUR HEAD SCREWED ON STRAIGHT.

YOU CAN'T GO OUT NOW.

I CAN.

I HAVE FREE WILL AND EVERYTHING.

YOU HAVE TO CHARGE THE ARMOR FROM SCRATCH.

THAT WILL TAKE AT LEAST THREE HOURS.

UGH!

AND YOU HAVE A DATE IN AN HOUR.

A DATE?

DR. AMARA PERERA.

THE LOVELY SRI LANKAN BIOPHYSICIST THAT YOU MET AT THE DUBAI CONFERENCE FOR--

AMARA PERERA.

OH, I LIKED HER.

YES.

YOU'LL BE LATE SOON.

DON'T BE LATE. WOMEN DO NOT FIND IT CUTE.

OH, LIKE YOU KNOW.

NO WOMAN ON THE PLANET EARTH HAS EVER FOUND IT CHARMING.

THEY CALL IT STRIKE ONE.

MISTER STARK.
IS SHE HERE?
YOU'RE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.
WHEW.
MISTER STARK...
...WHY IS THERE NO ONE ELSE IN THIS RESTAURANT?
I CALLED AHEAD.
YOU BOUGHT OUT THE RESTAURANT?
NOT FOREVER.
JUST FOR DINNER.
I DON'T NEED IMPRESSING.
REALLY?
I'M, WELL, I'M VERY, VERY FAMOUS.
I DID IT FOR ME.
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU.
GOOD.
LIKE, SORT OF BEATLES FAMOUS.
EXCEPT THE BEATLES NEVER FLEW AROUND THE GALAXY AND PUNCHED GIANT ROBOTS IN THE--WELL, YOU GET IT.
WELL, I GUESS CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER...
FOR...?
MY FRIENDS SAID YOU'D BE AN HOUR LATE AND SHOW UP IN YOUR ARMOR AND REALLY DO A SONG AND DANCE ABOUT HOW AMAZING YOU ARE.
YOU ONLY DID *ONE* OF THE THREE.
OH, PLEASE.
THAT WAS THE *OLD* ME.
HOW LONG HAS THIS NEW YOU BEEN YOU?
ALMOST FOUR HOURS NOW.

STARK TOWER.
OSAKA, JAPAN.

STARK

SMASHH

BAM BAM BAM BAM

BAM BAM BAM BAM

BAM BAM BAM BAM

ZAAACCTTTK BAM BAM BAM

NEW YORK CITY.

STARK

OKAY, NOW WILL YOU ADMIT IT, MR. STARK?

ADMIT WHAT?

CATERED DESSERT AT THE TOP OF YOUR SKYSCRAPER/SUPER HERO CLUB HOUSE?

YOU ARE TRYING TO IMPRESS ME.

IF I WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS YOU, DOCTOR, I'D HAVE THOR "ACCIDENTALLY" STOP BY.

FUNNY. BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I WOULD LEAVE IF YOU DID THAT.

REALLY?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY AT ALL.

YOU'RE TONY STARK. JUST BE TONY STARK.

OKAY, LISTEN...

...I READ YOUR PAPERS.

I'M, WELL, I'M INTIMIDATED.

BY ME?

YES!

AND THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO ME THAT MUCH.

UM... THANK YOU.

TRYING TO REMEMBER THE LAST TIME...

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU EVEN UNDERSTOOD THOSE PAPERS PUTS YOU FAR AHEAD OF MY USUAL "WOULD-BE SUITORS."

HEY... GENIUS TO GENIUS QUESTION.

DO YOU HAVE ONE?

ONE WHAT?

I BET YOU HAVE FIVE.

OKAY.

FIVE WHAT?

THINGS YOU'VE INVENTED THAT YOU ARE KEEPING TO YOURSELF.

MMM.

LIKE A PIECE OF GUM THAT'S REALLY A MEAL?

NO.

LIKE A "CHANGE THE WORLD" THING.

SOMETHING THAT THE WORLD ISN'T NEAR READY FOR.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW, NOT GUESS, YOU KNOW IT'LL BE REVERSE ENGINEERED AND USED IN THE WORST WAY.

KNEW IT.

I HAVE ONE.

I HAVE A CURE FOR THE MUTANT GENE.

YOU. DO. NOT.

ONE THAT WOULD ABSOLUTELY DO NO HARM TO THE HOST.

WOW.

BUT IT-- IT IS LIKE CURING JUDAISM.

IT'S NOT TO BE DONE. I WON'T DO IT.

BECAUSE BY THE WEEKEND IT WOULD BECOME A LAW THAT EVERYONE HAS TO TAKE THE CURE.

AT LEAST. ALL HELL WOULD BREAK LOOSE.

AND THE THING OF IT IS, I DIDN'T EVEN MEAN TO DO IT.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT?

KIND OF.

IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE A BRAINTEASER.

I WAS WATCHING ONE OF THOSE LUNATIC EVANGELISTS SCREAMING ABOUT MUTANTS AND HOW HE WISHED THERE WAS A CURE.

AND BY THAT AFTERNOON I FOUND ONE.

AGAIN, AND I AM SOMEONE WHO HAS SEEN THE HULK EAT, BUT, WOW.

I DIDN'T EVEN WRITE IT DOWN.

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND IT IF I DIED.

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, ACTUALLY.

THERE ARE PSYCHIC SPIES, PSYCHIC INDUSTRIAL SPIES, AND PSYCHIC MUTANTS.

AND PSYCHIC MUTANT INDUSTRIAL SPIES.

DON'T KEEP IT IN THERE UNPROTECTED.

DEAR LORD.

I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT.

THERE ARE WAYS.

I WONDER WHAT *YOU* ARE THINKING NOW...

YOU'D PUNCH ME IN THE NOSE IF YOU KNEW.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NO.
UM...
...GOING FOR IT?
NO?
ARE YOU AT ALL AWARE OF YOUR REPUTATION?
FUTURIST?
THE OTHER ONE.
CHARITABLE TO A FAULT?
THE OTHER ONE.
I'M DRAWING A BLANK.
I BELIEVE THE SCIENTIFIC TERM IS *HORNDOG*, MR. STARK.
IS...
...THAT A NEGATIVE?
UM, SO I GUESS I WILL SEE MYSELF...
YOU'RE SAYING I HAVE TO WAIT TO KISS YOU?
UM...
I'VE-- I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY HEARD ANYONE SAY THAT BEFORE.
I'VE SEEN PEOPLE ON TV AND MOVIES SAY IT, AND I THOUGHT: HOW UNREALISTIC.
YOU'RE NOT JOKING.
WHEN CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?
MISTER STARK...
WHAT HAPPENED, FRIDAY?
WHAT IS *THAT?*
WHITNEY FROST...
MADAME MASQUE.
SHE'S BACK.

LATVERIA.

"WHERE?

"SHE JUST BROKE INTO CASTLE DOOMSTADT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?

"DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHAT SHE TOOK?"

THE TEMPORARY REGIME OF LATVERIA IS NOT COOPERATING, BUT S.H.I.E.L.D. SATELLITE FOOTAGE WAS UNMISTAKABLE.

WILL YOU PLEASE APOLOGIZE TO MY GUEST?

YOU ALREADY DID.

YOU KNOW, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WOULDN'T KISS ME SO I FAKED AN EMERGENCY SO I COULD GET OUT OF THERE.

WHITNEY FROST IS ON S.H.I.E.L.D.'S TEN MOST WANTED LIST, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE.

BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE JUST THE KIND OF THING A SNAKE LIKE ME WOULD FAKE.

DID YOU KNOW I HAVE A BAD REPUTATION WITH THE LADIES?

ONLY BASED ON YOUR LIFE CHOICES.

(WHY DIDN'T I CREATE AN A.I. THAT WILL LIE TO ME?)

ARMOR?

ALL SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL.

DOUBLE CHECK.

YOU ARE GO FOR FLIGHT.

MY SECOND FAVORITE WORDS...

BOOM

NICE SONIC BOOM, SIR.

I THOUGHT SO.

DID THE S.H.I.E.L.D. SATELLITES TRACK HER ESCAPE?

NO.

WHITNEY FROST: MADAME MASQUE.

SHE ALWAYS HAD SOME GAME, BUT BREAKING INTO CASTLE DOOM...

...THAT TAKES SOME BIG TIME--

WOW. WHAT A MESS.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE, FRIDAY?

SINCE DOCTOR DOOM LOST CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY THERE HAVE BEEN CONFLICTING REPORTS.

REVOLUTIONARIES, ATTACKS BY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES...

FOR ALL OF HIS NUMEROUS FAILINGS, DOOM RAN A VERY TIGHT SHIP.

WITHOUT HIM, THIS COUNTRY MAY VERY WELL TEAR ITSELF APART.

WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE?

I DO BELIEVE THEY ARE TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT NOW.

TWENTY-SEVEN ARMED AND HARRIED GENTLEMEN IN YOUR DIRECT VICINITY.

THANK YOU, THAT WAS HELPFUL.

DON'T BE CHEEKY.

VLASHTON!

VLASHTONI!

CASKSANI ARMOUR NAKANI!

I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME!

THEY WOULD LIKE YOU TO REMOVE THE ARMOR AND SURRENDER IT.

I FIGURED THAT ONE OUT.

LISTEN, GUYS...I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU WITH A ROBBERY THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A TERRORIST ATTACK.

BECAUSE IT WAS BY A REAL HONEST-TO-GOODNESS TERRORIST THAT ROBBED YOU.

(THEY DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH, DO THEY?)

I WOULD IMAGINE NOT. SHALL I TRANSLATE?

LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS OR THE--

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

UM...

MASSIVE SONIC ATTACK. THE NEW ARMOR PROTECTED YOU AUTOMATICALLY.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

BEHIND YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME, TONY STARK.

THAT IS YOU, YES?

THIS IS VERY FORTUNATE. VERY, VERY FORTUNATE.

I WAS GOING TO FIND A WAY TO REACH OUT TO YOU AND *HERE YOU ARE.*

WHO--WHO ARE YOU?

FRIDAY, WHO IS THIS?

IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME.

THE REASON I WAS EAGER TO FIND YOU WAS THAT WE ARE IN A VERY UNIQUE POSITION.

WE NEED EACH OTHER VERY MUCH.

I KNOW THAT VOICE.

THAT VOICE...

ACCORDING TO ALL BIOSCANS, THIS--THIS IS VICTOR VON DOOM.

THIS IS

DOCTOR DOOM!

#2

CASTLE DOOM,
LATVERIA.

YOU ARE VICTOR VON DOOM?

YES. AND I ASSUME YOUR ARMOR SENSORS AND A.I. HAVE VERIFIED *MUCH* THE SAME THING.

THAT IS VICTOR VON DOOM.

SHUSH, FRIDAY.

WHY ARE YOU NOT WEARING YOUR ARMOR?

THIS IS THE *NEW* ME.

ALL RIGHT.

FABOOM

FABOOM

HE'S BLOCKING YOU USING A COMBINED MYSTICAL SPELL DEFENSE.

ARE YOU FINISHED?

YOU'RE THE DOCTOR DOOM?

YES.

I THOUGHT YOUR FACE WAS SCARRED BEYOND ANYTHING ANY HUMAN COULD STAND LOOKING AT.

IT WAS.

I'M BETTER.

HE REALLY IS VICTOR VON DOOM.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO HERE, FRIDAY...

VICTOR VON DOOM, THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON THE PLANET, IS JUST STANDING HERE SMILING AT ME.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...

...YOU AND I ONCE TIME-TRAVELED BACK TO THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR AND HAD QUITE A ROUSING ADVENTURE.

I ALWAYS LOOK BACK ON THAT QUITE FONDLY.

YOU TRIED TO MURDER ME AND LEAVE ME THERE.

I SAID I LOOKED BACK ON IT FONDLY, I DIDN'T SAY YOU DID.

ARE YOU FINISHED?

I SEE YOU STILL HAVE YOUR MAGIC...

I ASSUMED YOU WOULD LASH OUT AT ME.

I HAD THAT DEFENSE SPELL PREPARED.

SO YOU GAVE UP THE ARMOR, YOUR FACE IS ALL HEALED, HERE YOU ARE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FALLEN KINGDOM...

...BUT YOU'RE STILL A WORLD-CLASS SORCERER.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW *WHY* I'M HERE?

YES.

THERE'S NO WEAKNESS IN HIS MYSTICAL POWER MATRIX.

KEEP LOOKING.

YOU SAID WE NEEDED EACH OTHER.

WHITNEY FROST. MADAME MASQUE. CRIMINALLY INSANE.

I BELIEVE YOU TWO HAVE A HISTORY.

WELL...

I WOULDN'T SAY WE HAVE A HISTORY.

I MEAN, I KNOW WHO SHE IS.

UH-HUH.

REGARDLESS, SHE HAS EMBARKED ON A VERY DANGEROUS TREASURE HUNT.

ACCUMULATING POWERFUL ITEMS AROUND THE WORLD.

ITEMS THAT YOU DON'T WANT SOMEONE LIKE *HER* HAVING THEIR HANDS ON.

LIKE WHAT?

INFINITY STONES? COSMIC CUBES?

WEB-SHOOTERS?

I'D BE A LITTLE SURPRISED.

I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE A SURPRISE FOR YOU TO FIND OUT THAT THIS PLANET LIVES ON A CROSSROADS OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL COSMIC ENERGIES--

DON'T BE COY.

THIS PLANET HAS SURVIVED *ALL* TYPES OF INCURSIONS AND DIMENSIONAL RIFTS.

AND WHEN THINGS LIKE THAT OCCUR, ITEMS THAT *DO NOT* FOLLOW THE RULES OF OUR PHYSICS OR OUR BIOLOGY TEND TO FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS.

THINGS LAND ON THIS PLANET THAT JUST DON'T BELONG HERE.

THIS WAY...

AAAAAAND?

AND THESE ITEMS CERTAINLY DON'T BELONG IN THE HANDS OF A WOMAN LIKE WHITNEY FROST.

SHE'S A SICK WOMAN.

WHAT WAS SHE DOING HERE?

WHAT WERE YOU HIDING?

DOOM, I'M TELLING YOU, MY ARMOR KNOWS WHERE I AM. IF I DISAPPEAR, THE AVENGERS KNOW TO--

I KNOW.

IF I WANTED TO KILL YOU, YOU'D BE DEAD.

I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS...

...WHAT WAS MY LABORATORY.

KEEP DEFENSES UP.

OH, YEAH.

FULLY ARMED.

NO ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS OR OTHER ORGANISMS DETECTED.

ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER ME, DOOMSY?

WHAT WAS SHE LOOKING FOR HERE? AND WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

FROM ONE SCIENTIST TO ANOTHER, THIS IS ACTUALLY HEARTBREAKING.

DEFENSES UP.

YEAH, YOU JUST SAID THAT.

I'M ON IT.

SCAN.

SCANNING.

UNKNOWN ENERGIES AND ORIGIN.

THIS IS THE *WAND OF WATOOMB.*

THE WAND, THROUGH MEDITATION, IS CONTROLLED BY THE THOUGHTS OF ITS USER.

IF TRAINED CORRECTLY, THE USER CAN USE IT TO MULTIPLY, FOCUS OR REDIRECT MYSTICAL ENERGIES.

DOCTOR STRANGE'S WAND OF WATOOMB?

NO. THIS ONE WAS MINE.

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE?

YES. YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT.

THERE MAY BE FIVE MORE ACROSS THE DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS.

THIS ONE WAS MINE.

HOW DO YOU HAVE IT?

I JUST TOLD YOU.

IT SLIPPED THROUGH THE CRACKS OF THE WORLD.

YES.

TAKE IT.

WHY?

BECAUSE IT IS BETTER OFF IN YOUR HANDS THAN IN HERS.

OR MINE.

CALL IT A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH.

OKAY, HOLD ON... STOP.

WHAT IS THIS?

YOU AND I, FROM NOW ON, ARE GOING TO HELP EACH OTHER.

AND THE ONLY WAY I THINK THIS WILL WORK IS IF YOU LEARN TO *TRUST* ME.

I'LL NEVER TRUST YOU.

YOU'LL LEARN TO.

UM, TONY, BECAUSE YOU PROGRAMMED ME TO SAY IT THIS WAY, I HAVE TO SAY:

WE HAVE COMPANY.

OKAY, THERE'S LITERALLY PEOPLE STORMING THE CASTLE OUTSIDE.

THE REST OF THE REBELS HAVE HEARD YOU ARE HERE.

JUST FLY OUT THE TOP OF THE CASTLE AND ARC BACK TO NEW YORK.

DO NOT INVOLVE YOURSELF IN ANY OF THE LOCAL UPHEAVAL.

IT'S BENEATH YOU.

WAIT! HOLD ON...

IS THIS ACTUALLY A-- WHAT ARE YOU UP TO HERE?

I KNOW THE HOLE I HAVE DUG FOR MYSELF.

I KNOW IT WON'T BE EASY.

OH, MAN, ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF?

YOU SHOULD GO.

I WISH YOU COULD SEE HOW MUCH I'M LAUGHING AT YOU AND ROLLING MY EYES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE IRONY IS: THESE REBELS ARE PUNISHING THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

WHEN I WAS THEIR LEADER, THESE PEOPLE LIVED HEALTHY LIVES.

OH, DAMN...

I LEFT THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM I GOT YOU IN MY OTHER ARMOR.

TRACK THE ENERGY SIGNATURES FROM THIS CASTLE AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TRIANGULATE WHERE MADAME MASQUE HAS BEEN AND WHAT SHE HAS TAKEN.

WHAT DID SHE TAKE WHEN SHE WAS HERE?

A DECOY.

IT WAS MEANT, AT ONE TIME, FOR DOCTOR STRANGE OR MEPHISTO.

I'M SURE MASQUE IS STILL POSITIVE SHE HAS THE REAL ONE.

TAKE IT AND GO. I HAVE THIS.

NO NO... NO NO NO...

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR--FOR WAR CRIMES.

NO. I'M NOT.

TRACK THE ENERGY TRAILS. YOU WILL FIND HER.

FIND HER BEFORE SHE INADVERTENTLY OPENS UP A DIMENSIONAL DOOR AND LIGHTS THIS HALF OF THE WORLD ON FIRE.

BLAFTUNI!

SHO BLAFTUNI!

YOU'RE GOING TO MURDER THESE PEOPLE AND TRY TO TAKE YOUR KINGDOM BACK.

NO.

I DON'T *WANT* MY KINGDOM BACK. I'VE RULED ALREADY.

I NOW KNOW I'M MEANT FOR MORE.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS YOU'VE OVERSTAYED YOUR WELCOME.

I'LL SHARE MORE WITH YOU WHEN YOU TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.

I DO LIKE THE NEW ARMOR DESIGN.

MYSTICAL ENERGY FLUCTU--

NO! DON'T YOU--

--DARE WAG YOUR MAGIC FINGER IN MY--!

HOLY!

AAIIEEE!

ARE WE DEAD?

PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T HELL.

RECALIBRATING SYSTEM.

WRONG ANSWER.

DUDE!

IT'S FRICKIN' IRON MAN!

I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN HE HAD A NOSE ON HIS MASK.

(IT WAS MORE PERSONABLE.)

OH, YOU'RE INSANE.

HEY! IF HE'S IN SOME KIND OF SPACE-ALIEN FIGHT, WE NEED TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

FRIDAY?!

♪BLING♪

SYSTEMS BACK ONLINE. SORRY.

WE WERE INSTANTANEOUSLY TELEPORTED TO THE BRONX ZOO.

THE BRONX ZOO?

IN THE BRONX.

WHY?

BECAUSE DOOM IS JUST... ODD?

PLOT A COURSE BACK TO LATVERIA.

NO.

NO?

NO, THANK YOU?

LISTEN, ACCORDING TO NEW HACKED SATELLITE FOOTAGE, THAT FIGHT IS OVER AND DOOM IS GONE.

HOW ABOUT INSTEAD I TRACK THE ENERGY TRAIL DOOM POINTED OUT COULD LEAD US TO MADAME MASQUE?

OR YOU COULD DO THAT!

UNLESS IT'S AN ELABORATE TRAP.

UGH! JUST DO IT!

DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME.

SORRY! I'M--I'M COMPLETELY FREAKED OUT!

THAT WAS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY WEIRD... ON NUMEROUS LEVELS.

I'M CALLING DOCTOR STRANGE AS WELL.

THANK YOU, FRIDAY.

SEE? NICE. WAS THAT SO HARD?

AND LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE.

BRIGHT SIDE?

DOOM.

YOU HAVE A NEW BESTEST FRIEND THAT YOU HAVE A LOT IN COMMON WITH.

PLEASE TURN YOURSELF OFF.

I HOPE RHODEY DOESN'T GET JELLY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T BUILD AN OFF SWITCH ON YOU--

MONTREAL.

WELL, WAIT TILL I GET THAT DRESS OFF YOU AND YOU'LL *SEE* IF I'M LYING.

YOU ARE *TOO MUCH.*

THAT'S WHAT--OH MY *GODDD!*

YOU LIED TO ME.

I DID NOT.

IT WAS A FAKE.

IT WAS NOT.

THE WAND OF WATOOMB IN DOOM'S CASTLE WAS A FAKE!

WHO-- WHO *IS* THIS?

I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF WHATEVER...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO SHE IS.

I WAS JUST--

THIP

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

HE WAS ANNOYING ME.

I PAID GOOD MONEY FOR HIM.

I DON'T CARE.

THE WAND WAS A FAKE.

THAT IS NOT THE INTEL I HAD.

THE INTEL I HAD--

CLK

IT'S MY FAULT.

I KNEW GETTING INTO BUSINESS WITH YOU WAS A MISTAKE.

OF *COURSE* THIS IS HOW IT ENDS...

THIP

PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB

I TOOK THE BULLETS.

DON'T RUN.

LET'S TALK.

HI, WHITNEY...

GIVE ME BACK MY MASK.

FIRST, TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE UP TO...

GIVE IT BACK!

GIVE IT BACK!

WHY?

OKAY, OKAY...

BUT YOU'RE *NOT* GETTING THE BULLETS. HAVE TO DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.

YOU KNOW, WHEN I STAY HERE, I USUALLY ASK FOR THE ROOMS *WITHOUT* THE DEAD BODIES.

SHE WAS AN EX-HYDRA ASSASSIN AND HE WAS A WHORE.

I DON'T LIKE TO LABEL.

BUT YEAH, I ALREADY SCANNED THEM.

THEY ALSO HAD FAMILIES.

WHERE'S YOUR ARMOR?

NO ARMOR. I BRING ARMOR, WE FIGHT.

I JUST WANT TO TALK.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

OH, *SURE* YOU DO.

LEAVE. NOW.

ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER...

LET'S SEE:

HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU AND DOOM ARE UP TO?

DOOM?

DOCTOR DOOM. *VICTOR* VON DOOM.

HOW MANY OTHER DOOMS COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* KNOW?

I DON'T HAVE *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH HIM.

COME ON, WHITNEY...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT.

YOU *REALLY* DON'T.

LEAVE HERE OR I WILL MURDER YOU, TOO.

THIS MEANS, OH NO, THIS MEANS DOOM IS TELLING THE TRUTH!

OR-- OR HE *WANTS* ME TO BELIEVE HIM *NOW*...SO HE CAN PULL SOMETHING *FIVE MOVES LATER.*

WHITNEY, DO YOU SEE THIS?

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING ABOUT?!*

IS THERE ANY POSSIBLE WAY ON THIS PLANET EARTH THAT VICTOR VON FREAKIN' DOOM IS ACTUALLY TRYING TO DO THE *RIGHT* THING?

NYYAAGGH!

KTANGGG

KTANG.

CRACCKKK

STEALTH MODE.

STANDARD ON ALL THE NEW MODELS. IT'S ALL THE RAGE WITH US A-LIST-TOP-TIER-ARMOR-WEARING SUPER HEROES.

MMRRR!

I KNOW.

YOUR HAND'S BROKEN IN THREE PLACES.

WHITNEY, FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, SHUT IT DOWN.

YOU NEED HELP. BADLY. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST. NO REASON THIS CAN'T BE CIVIL.

KILL YOU!

WHITNEY, COME ON.

ENERGY FLUCTUATION DETEC--

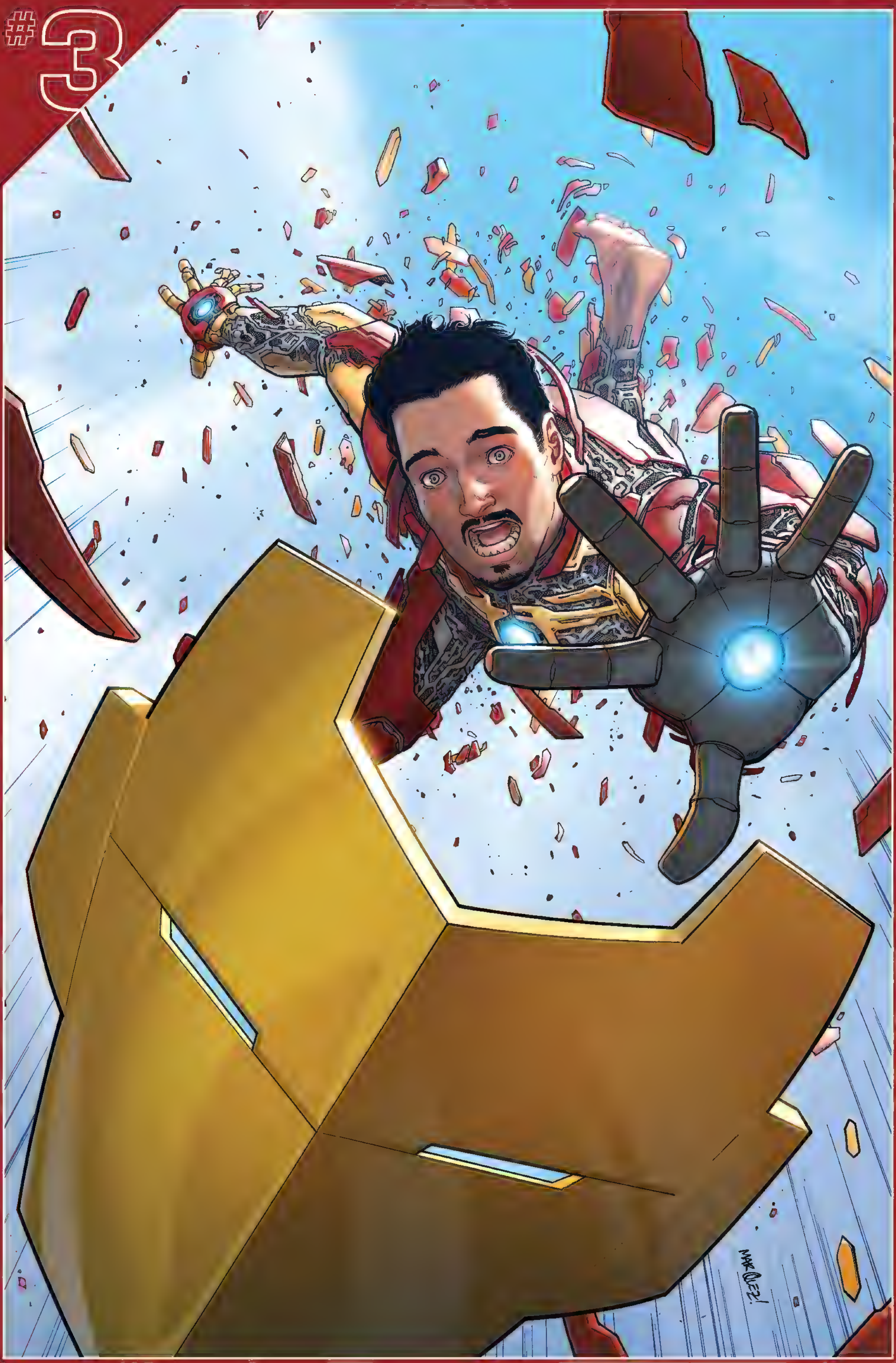
WHAT ARE YOU-- AAGH!

DIE!

FZZT TKK

DIE!

#3



MONTREAL.

TONY STARK!

UNKNOWN ENERGY SOURCE EMANATING OUT OF WHITNEY FROST.

CORRUPTING SYSTEMS. HARDWARE FAILING.

THIS IS FOR ALL THE LIES YOU'VE EVER TOLD!

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS REQUIRED.

YOU HYPOCRITE!

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS--

NOT YET!

RECORD THE ENERGY SIGNATURES.

SCAN FOR WEAKNESSES IN ITS MATRIX.

FIND OUT WHAT MADAME MASQUE IS DOING TO--

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS ENGAGED.

NO!

AGH!

NO!

FRIDAY!

NO!

I DON'T WANT THIS!

YES, YOU DO.

YOU PROGRAMMED IT.

MY PROGRAM IS TO KEEP YOU FROM DYING.

YOU WERE ABOUT TO DIE.

THE ARMOR.

REMOTE PROGRAM IS STILL IN PLAY.

HOW MUCH DO I HAVE?

ENOUGH.

RRGGH...

BOOMCRACCHH

STARK!

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DON'T SCREAM, AMARA...

JESUS!

SORRY.

TONY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.

YOU COULD CALL OR YOU COULD-- WAIT, HOW DID YOU EVEN GET IN HERE? THERE'S A SECURITY PAD.

OH, *UH*, SORRY.

I LET MYSELF IN.

BUT... CUTE SECURITY PAD.

I WAS RIGHT NEXT DOOR IN MY LAB.

I WOULD ***NEVER*** INTERRUPT A SCIENTIST IN THEIR CHURCH. NEVER.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

I ALMOST DIED TONIGHT.

I'M SORRY.

WAIT, DON'T YOU ALMOST DIE A ***LOT?***

YEAH, BUT I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR IT.

YOU CAME HERE TO TELL ME YOU ALMOST DIED RUNNING AROUND IN YOUR SUIT OF ARMOR THAT YOU PUT ON SPECIFICALLY TO GET INTO FIGHTS WITH BAD GUYS AND MONSTERS?

WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I SOUND INSANE.

I'M SORRY IF I SOUND FLIP.

YOU'VE RATTLED ME, COMING IN HERE LIKE THIS.

NO, ***I'M*** SORRY.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU ALL DAY, AND... WHEN THE ADRENALINE SUBSIDED FROM TODAY'S NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE...

(WHICH IN ITSELF IS NEVER EASY...)

...I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU.

I WANTED TO TELL YOU I DIDN'T RUN OUT ON OUR DATE BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T KISS ME.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT.

NOT EVEN A LITTLE?

ONLY A LITTLE.

CAN I GET YOU SOME TEA?

I ABSOLUTELY HATE TEA.

SURE.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ANYHOW?

IN MY LINE OF WORK...THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY WITH A MUCH WORSE STORY.

DON'T YOU HAVE OTHER SUPER HERO FRIENDS THAT YOU CAN COMMISERATE WITH WHEN THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN?

"OH MAN, I ALMOST DIED TONIGHT."

"YEAH? I WAS ALMOST EATEN BY GALACTUS." "OH YEAH? I DIED AND WAS RESURRECTED AS MY OWN CHILD."

AND YOU FOUND YOURSELF THINKING ABOUT ME?

YOU DO.

I MIGHT NOT ACTUALLY HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS.

I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT...

...PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO HEAR ME TALK ABOUT ANY OF MY PROBLEMS BECAUSE-- WELL...

YOU'RE RICH.

I CAN SEE THEIR EYES GLAZE OVER.

I CAN HEAR THE *"AW, POOR BABY."*

LIKE MY PROBLEMS AREN'T PROBLEMS.

MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS? THAT IS DISAPPOINTING TO HEAR.

SORRY TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK IT TO YOU.

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT CHALLENGE YOU INTELLECTUALLY.

A FEW. BUT THEY ARE VERY, I WANT TO SAY--

COCKY?

INSANE.

WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT?

"WELL..."

TONY!

YOU COWARD.

NAME-CALLING?

REALLY? I THOUGHT SO MUCH MORE OF YOU.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT IS BASED ON, ACTUALLY, BUT, YET, I STILL DID.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU, WHITNEY?

YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND MURDERING AND STEALING...

HOW DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO END FOR YOU IF YOU KEEP MESSING AROUND LIKE THIS?

RRRAAGGHH!

SMAASHH

SIGNAL LOST
REACQUIRING...

RUDE.

FRIDAY?

SHE BAILED.

SHE'S GONE?

I'M GETTING SOME PRETTY SUBSTANTIAL TELEPORTATION SIGNATURES.

SHE CAN'T DO THAT.

CLEARLY SHE CAN NOW.

MERDE!

OKAY, WELL, INFORM LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHAT WENT DOWN.

THEY'RE GOING TO WANT A STATEMENT.

THEY HAVE SECURITY FOOTAGE.

AND A DOUBLE HOMICIDE.

I'M GOING TO END UP BUYING THAT HOTEL, AREN'T I?

YOU'LL HAVE TO SELL AN ARMOR TO AFFORD IT.

COME ON, FRIDAY, DON'T BUM ME OUT WITH THE FACTS.

JUST FIND DOCTOR STRANGE.

I CALLED.

CALL HIM AGAIN.

CLANG

YOU CHASED HER OFF.

NO.

YOU STOPPED HER.

NOT BEFORE SHE MURDERED TWO PEOPLE.

SURE, NOT THE BEST *QUALITY* OF PEOPLE, BUT STILL...

TECHNICALLY, PEOPLE.

DO YOU GET THIS WAY AFTER EVERY IRON MAN KERFUFFLE?

NO. JUST THE ONES I CAN'T FIGURE OUT.

SEE, THIS IS NOT MADAME MASQUE'S NORMAL M.O.

AND IT'S A POWER SET I CAN'T IDENTIFY.

SHE IS GATHERING POWERFUL ITEMS FOR A NIGHTMARE AGENDA I CAN ONLY GUESS AT...

...AND DOCTOR DOOM IS SO DAMN HELPFUL AND SO DAMN HANDSOME NOW...

...I THINK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THIS WITHOUT IT SOUNDING TOO ARROGANT, BUT I'M TOO SMART FOR THIS NOT TO JUST PISS ME OFF.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

I TOLD YOU.

YOU JUST MET ME.

I JUST MET YOU AND REALIZED YOU ARE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND COMPLETELY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

INTELLECTUALLY, MORALLY, YOU HAVE BETTER HAIR...

BUT WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

I CAN'T SHAKE THE IDEA THAT BECOMING THE MAN THAT WOULD ACTUALLY DESERVE YOU...WOULD BE A VERY GOOD GOAL IN LIFE AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME.

THAT WAS AN ABSOLUTELY LOVELY THING TO SAY.

OH.

(I WAS ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT WHAT AN IDIOT I AM, BUT...)

STILL...

WOW.

YEAH...

DOCTOR STRANGE IS RETURNING YOUR CALL...

OH, COME ON, FRIDAY...

SORRY. YOU SAID...

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.

OKAY.

NOW I BELIEVE YOU.

I'M SORRY?

I WAS LYING BEFORE.

NOW I BELIEVE THAT YOU DIDN'T RUN FROM OUR DATE WITH A MADE-UP STORY ABOUT IRON MAN BUSINESS BECAUSE I WOULDN'T KISS YOU.

SEE, FRIDAY?! I TOLD YOU SHE THOUGHT I WAS A SNAKE.

DOCTOR STRANGE. ARE YOU HOME? GOOD.

I CAN BE THERE IN TEN MINUTES.

YOU'RE AT M.I.T.

NINETEEN MINUTES.

IT JUST NOW OCCURS TO ME I SHOULD HAVE CALLED FIRST.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME BY.

I PROMISE I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS I HAVE THIS ALL FIGURED OUT.

HAIL HYDRA.

WHAT?

SORRY.

JUST CHECKING.

THAT WAS RANDOM.

NOT IN MY WORLD.

BOOM

THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE SORCERER SUPREME, DOCTOR STRANGE.

VICTOR VON DOOM.

AND HE LOOKED GOOD.

I MEAN, HE DIDN'T HAVE OUR KICK-ASS FACIAL HAIR, BUT HE LOOKED GOOD.

HEALED. HANDSOME.

THAT COULD BE A COSMETIC ILLUSION SPELL.

BUT HE NEVER USED ONE BEFORE.

TRUE. HE PRIDED HIMSELF ON HIS MASK.

(IT WAS GOOD BRANDING.)

SO I NEED TO FIND HIM.

HE IS A STRONG ENOUGH SORCERER THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO HIDE FROM ME.

AND IF HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO YOU, HE WOULD KNOW YOU WOULD COME TO ME FOR HELP AND BE PREPARED FOR SUCH A THING.

IF I COULD FIND HIM, IT WOULD ONLY BE BECAUSE HE WANTED ME TO.

I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING YOU'RE SAYING.

BUT THIS NEW WAND OF WATOOMB.

HE SAID IT'S A DIFFERENT ONE FROM A DIFFERENT DIMENSION.

THAT IS MORE DISTURBING TO HEAR THAN DOOM HAVING A MAKEOVER.

AND MADAME MASQUE IS HUNTING FOR THESE ITEMS OF POWER OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE.

SO THE QUESTION IS: HOW DID THEY KNOW ABOUT THESE ITEMS OF POWER SLIPPING THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL CRACKS AND WE DID NOT?

AND WHAT DOES SHE PLAN ON DOING WITH THEM?

AND WHY ISN'T DOOM DOING THE SAME THING?

EXACTLY. IT'S WHAT HE DOES.

IT'S WHAT HE *ALWAYS* DOES.

HOLD ON...

WHAT IS *THAT?*

SHH...

WHAT?

IT'S HER.

SHE'S ATTEMPTING TO USE A MYSTIC POWER SOURCE THAT PULLS ENERGY FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION...

...BUT SHE IS UNTRAINED AND UNSKILLED AND CREATING A MYSTIC MINI BLACK HOLE THAT SHE IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO CLOSE.

YOU KNOW WHERE?

I DO.

MARINA DEL REY, CALIFORNIA.

EW.

LISTEN, I KNOW IT'S MAGIC STUFF, BUT DO YOU THINK I CAN HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN?

I HAVE A WHOLE THING WITH MADAME MASQUE AND I NEED TO SEE IT THROUGH.

ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.

I KIND OF HAVE MY HANDS FULL HERE.

ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH?

DO YOU HAVE A KEY TO OPEN THE DOORWAY TO DIMENSION Q?

NOT *ON* ME.

I'LL TRY TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU FROM HERE, BUT YOU REACH OUT IF IT GETS OUT OF HAND.

OKAY.

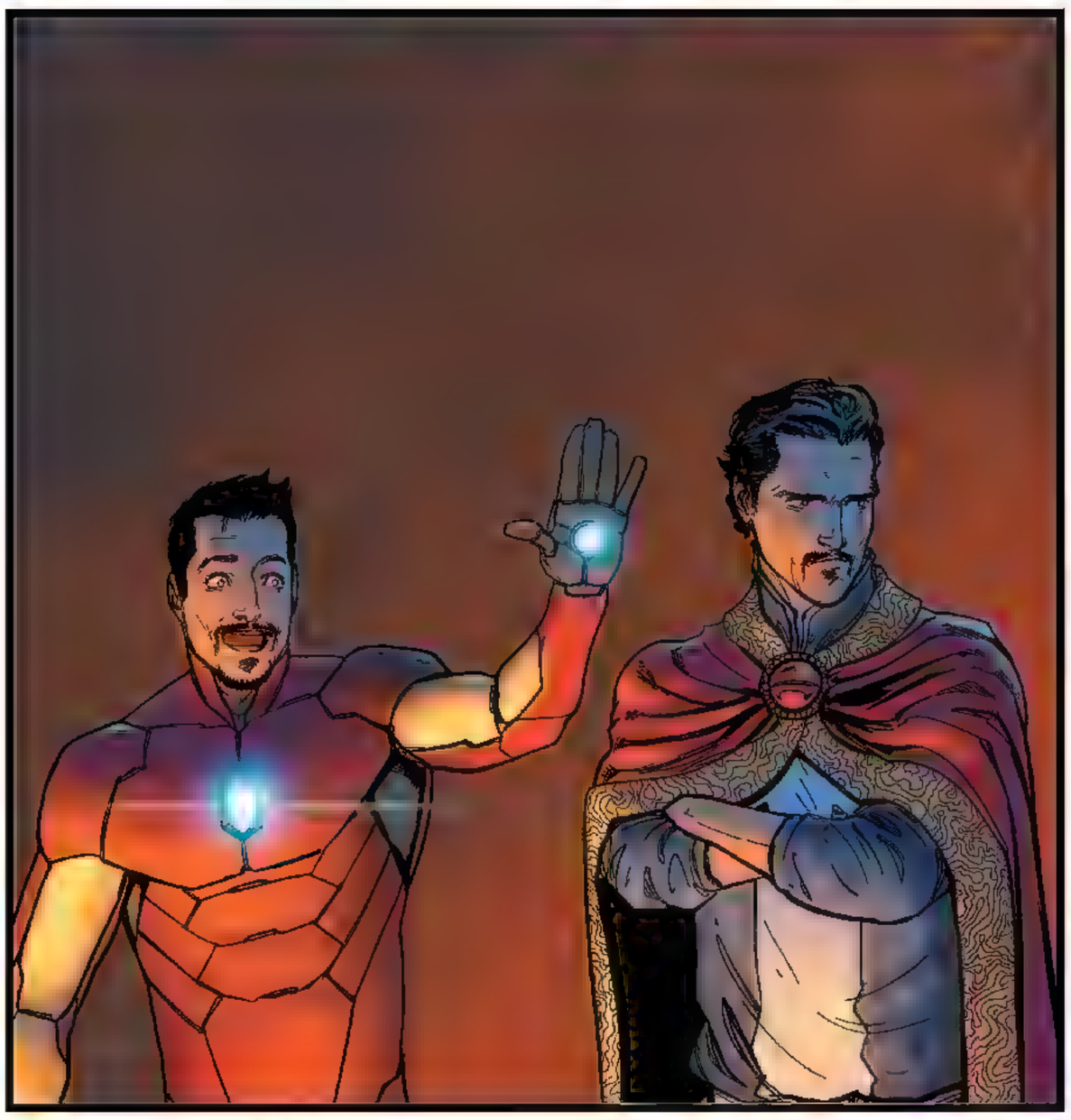
THANKS, DOCTOR...

THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE WILL MELT HER OWN FACE OFF BEFORE YOU GET THERE.

THERE'S ALSO JUST A TINY CHANCE SHE'LL TAKE OUT MOST OF THE LOS ANGELES AREA WITH HER, SO... HURRY UP.

NO.

COME ON...
I TOLD YOU I WOULD NEVER DO THAT AGAIN.
YOU CAN DO IT.



AWESOME FACIAL HAIR BROS!
I HATE YOU.

MARINA DEL REY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN.

THERE'S NOBODY HERE.

KEEP STEALTH MODE ON.

WAS SHE HERE?

THERE'S ABNORMAL ENERGY RESIDUE.

IS THIS HER PLACE?

THERE'S NO REAL ESTATE FILINGS IN HER NAME, BUT THAT'S EASY TO FAKE.

PLAY ME

A TAPE RECORDER.

SCAN IT.

IT IS, IN FACT, A TAPE RECORDER.

AND IF I PUSH PLAY...?

IT WILL PLAY THE TAPE.

AND NOT DISINTEGRATE ME OR THE WESTERN SEABOARD?

THAT WOULD BE SURPRISING.

WHERE DID SHE EVEN FIND A TAPE RECORDER?

HELLO, TONY, IT'S ME, WHITNEY...

...I MUST APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR MY RAGE-FILLED ATTACK LAST NIGHT.

YOU KNOW I HAVE ISSUES--IMPULSE CONTROL ISSUES--AND YOU ALSO KNOW THAT YOU DO NOT BRING OUT THE BEST IN ME.

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL...YOU DON'T BRING OUT THE BEST IN **ANYONE.**

RUDE.

DOES IT DRIVE YOU ABSOLUTELY UP THE WALL THAT YOU AND I ALWAYS FIND OUR WAY BACK TO EACH OTHER LIKE THIS?

OVER AND OVER?

WHEN I THINK ABOUT ALL OF THE OTHER AVENGERS AND X-MEN AND FANTASTIC FOUR, AND YET YOU ALWAYS FIND ME...

WHY? HAVE YOU BUGGED ME?

DID YOU SECRETLY INSERT A TRACKER INTO MY SKIN?

OR IS THIS JUST THE WAY IT HAS TO BE?

MAYBE YOU AND I ARE THE BEST RELATIONSHIP YOU AND I ARE CAPABLE OF HAVING WITH ANYONE?

GET TO THE POINT, CRAZY...

I KNOW YOU'RE DESPERATE TO FIND OUT **WHY** I'M DOING WHAT I'M DOING NOW.

BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY **YOU** ARE DOING WHAT YOU ARE DOING.

YOU ARE AS ADDICTED TO YOUR POWER AS I AM ADDICTED TO MINE.

BUT **YOURS** IS MANUFACTURED, AND MINE IS FOUND.

MINE IS **REAL.**

YOURS IS AN **ILLUSION.**

I WOULD TELL YOU TO WALK AWAY FROM THIS, BUT I KNOW YOU WILL NOT.

YOU WILL CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ME...BUT I THINK YOU KNOW THAT IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE OVERWHELMED WITH YOUR ATTRACTION TO ME.

AND THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE ME ANYMORE HAS DRIVEN YOU INSANE.

DON'T COME NEAR ME, ANTHONY.

DON'T COME LOOKING FOR ME.

THE NEXT TIME YOU DO, I WILL MURDER YOU.

I WILL STRADDLE YOU AND SUCK IN THE LAST BREATH YOU TAKE AS IT CRAWLS OUT OF YOUR BODY...

...AND THEN I WILL RIP YOUR SKIN OFF WITH MY BARE HANDS.

I WILL PULL THAT SMIRK RIGHT OFF YOUR FACE AND I WILL EAT IT.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, CONSIDER THE FACT THAT YOU FOUND ME AND I **KNEW** YOU WOULD FIND ME.

I'M ONE STEP **AHEAD** OF YOU, FUTURIST.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO MUCH SMARTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE, AND YET...YOU'RE NOT EVEN CLOSE.

SO I LEAVE YOU WITH A WARNING.

ACTUALLY, **TWO** WARNINGS.

WARNING ONE...DON'T COME LOOKING FOR ME.

TONY...

YEAH, I SEE IT...

AND WARNING NUMBER TWO, I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR TO TELL YOU...

...YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE LOOKING FOR ME...

AND IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN...

...THEY WILL, WHILE LOOKING FOR ME, FIND YOU...

...AND THESE GUYS DON'T WANT YOU EVEN KNOWING THEY EXIST.

SO THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU...

...AND THEY WILL.

SO, HEY, EITHER WAY, THIS WORKS OUT PRETTY GOOD FOR ME...

#4

MARQUEZ after ROMITA J-P3

MARINA DEL REY.

UH-OH.

MAY I SUGGEST A HASTY RETREAT?

CRAASSHHH

TOO LATE.

I'M GOING TO NEED SOME INTEL, FRIDAY.

WHAT THE HELL JUST HIT ME?

WELL, UM, NINJAS.

NO, I GET THAT!

BUT WHAT THE HELL KIND OF NINJAS?

THEY ARE WORKING ON A SECURE INTERCONNECTED CYBERNETIC WEB THAT I CANNOT INTERFACE WITH SO I CANNOT EAVESDROP ON THEM.

THERE ARE NO FINGERPRINTS ANYWHERE ON THEIR ARMOR.

THEIR SWORD TECH IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN IDENTIFY FROM ANY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, INTERPOL OR S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES.

WHICH MEANS IT IS NEW TECH THAT HAS NEVER BEEN CONFISCATED.

SO UNLESS YOU PULL A MASK OFF ONE OF THEM AND GET ME A **FACE** TO SCAN...

...OR UNLESS THEY START MONOLOGUING, WHICH WE BOTH KNOW IS NOT A NINJA'S **STRONG SUIT**...

...OR UNLESS YOU RETREAT, WHICH WE BOTH KNOW YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DO...

...IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE YOURSELF A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED **MOONLIGHT NINJA FIGHT BEACH PARTY.**

OKAY, CALL ME CRAZY--

YOU'RE CRAZY.

BUT I'VE DECIDED TO ENJOY THIS.

IT'S A MOONLIGHT NINJA FIGHT BEACH PARTY!

MOONLIGHT NINJA FIGHT BEACH PARTY... **GO!**

FSHAAAMMM

OKAY, OW, CHANGED MY MIND.

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO NEED SOME OLD-SCHOOL STEVE ROGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA FIGHT TRAINING.

IF THESE ARE A.I. ATTACK ROBOTS, I AM GOING TO BE SO ANGRY.

BECAUSE THEY ARE GOOD.

ACTUALLY...

OW!

...I AM PICKING UP FAINT PULSES AND HEART RATES FROM INSIDE THE SUITS.

THESE ARE REAL HONEST TO GOD PEOPLE NINJAS.

WATCH OUT.

AGH!

THAT WAS ALMOST A BREACH.

I WOULD NOT LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

"LET"? THERE'S NO LETTING.

FSHAAAMM

THEY SEEM TO BE AIMING FOR YOUR NECK NOW.

THEY KNOW THEY ALMOST BREACHED.

THAT MEANS THEY HAVE FUNCTIONING ENVIRONMENTAL SCANWARE IN THEIR ARMORS.

OR THEY JUST WANT TO CUT OFF MY HEAD REALLY BAD.

SURE. OR THAT.

HEY, GUYS...IF YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR WHITNEY FROST, WE PROBABLY HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK...

I'M HAPPY TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS--

HA!

FSHAAAMMM

NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO RETREAT.

NO. NOT UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHO AND WHAT THIS IS...

ALSO, NOW I HAVE A SWORD.

THAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF A GOOD TIME TO RETREAT.

YOU'RE SUCH A BOY.

THE REESE'S PEANUT BUTTER CUP IS READY.

LET'S DO IT.

BOOM.

AND NOW ENERGY RESOURCES ARE DOWN TO 33 PERCENT.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

ZERO POINT ENERGY BUBBLE BLAST IS A BATTERY DRAINER.

I NEED TO WORK ON THAT.

YOU REALLY DO.

BUT I HAVE A THEORY...

IF THIS IS YOUR THEORY THAT THE MATRIX IS ACTUALLY A TRUE STORY--

NO, I HAVE ANOTHER ONE.

HOLD ON, NINJA GUYS, I'M WORKING ON A THEORY...

SPLASSHH

ZZIITTT

SYSTEM REBOOT COMPLETE.

BOOM.

ZZIITTT

ZZIITTT

DON'T FEEL BAD, BIOTECH NINJAS (WHICH IS WHAT I AM NOW CALLING YOU).

TECH SUITS ARE KIND OF MY THING.

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR DESIGN THAT REMINDED ME OF THE MANDROID PROGRAM...

YOU'RE MONOLOGUING.

AND THOSE SUITS WERE CYBERNETICALLY CONNECTED.

GREAT FOR THIS KIND OF GROUP ATTACK, BUT ONLY SO-SO IF ONE BACKFIRES...

SEE, THE OTHERS NEED A SECOND TO RECONNECT...

...SO I HAD A SPLIT-SECOND WINDOW TO HIT YOU GUYS HARD.

THIS IS WHY PEOPLE DON'T LIKE YOU.

RIPP

(WHO DOESN'T LIKE ME?)

HI, I'M TONY STARK, AND YOU ARE?

私は失敗しました.

HE SAID HE HAS FAILED.

WELL, YEAH...

なんと...

HE IS DISHONORED.

WELL, AGAIN, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT EITHER.

WHO ARE YOU AND WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?

屈辱的な.

HE'S CRYING.

YEAH, I SEE THAT. SENSITIVE TYPE.

HEY, CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL.

TONY, THERE'S A FLUCTUATION.

I SEE IT.

GEEZ...

HOLY %#$&!

EXACTLY.

YOU KILLED THEM?

DUDE, HE'S IRON MAN, HE DOESN'T *DO* THAT.

I REALLY DON'T.

I MEANT: DID YOU KILL THEM BY ACCIDENT?

NO. THIS IS--

THEY KILLED THEMSELVES.

MODERN SEPPUKU.

YES.

GEEZ.

FRIDAY, WE MISS ANYTHING?

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN COMPLETE.

LISTEN, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO FILL OUT A REPORT.

I'M GOING TO NEED A STATEMENT AND--AND--

IT'S ALREADY IN YOUR E-MAIL, OFFICER RYAN.

HOW--HOW DO YOU KNOW MY E-MAIL?

DUDE.

OH, BECAUSE HE'S IRON MAN.

YEAH.

HE CAN FIND YOUR E-MAIL.

COME ON, THAT WAS MY FIRST SUPER HERO THING.

REALLY? I COULDN'T TELL.

WHY CAN'T I FIGURE THIS OUT?

MADAME MASQUE IS ON A MAD TEAR POWER QUEST.

BIOHACK NINJAS WITH NO CONNECTIONS TO ANYTHING AND ANYONE ARE AFTER HER.

AND NOW, IF THERE ARE ANY MORE, AND THERE'S ALWAYS MORE, THEY'LL BE AFTER ME.

DOCTOR DOOM IS UP TO COMPLETELY UN-DOOM-LIKE SHENANIGANS AND THINKS WE'RE BEST FRIENDS NOW.

HEY, FRIDAY, ANY DOCTOR DOOM SIGHTINGS?

I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

I LIKE ASKING.

WE ARE GETTING REPORTS THAT SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE TOKYO STARK TOWER.

I SEE IT.

AND THEY COMPLETELY SCRAMBLED ALL MY FANCY SECURITY SYSTEMS TO DO SO.

THIS HAPPENED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO AND THE TOKYO STARK TOWER SECURITY CHIEF IS JUST FILING THE REPORT NOW.

A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO? HE CAN FILE THE REPORT ON HIS WAY OUT THE DOOR.

YES, SIR.

NOT FOR THE BREAK-IN. FOR THE ASS-COVERING.

I GOT THAT.

MAKE SURE EVERYONE OVER THERE GETS IT, TOO.

OH, THEY WILL.

ALREADY ON IT.

AND I WANT HIS ACCOUNTS AND HOUSE SEARCHED. AND I WANT THE ENTIRE BUILDING INVENTORIED.

I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT, FRIDAY. WHERE IS MADAME MASQUE?

SOMETIMES THE SIMPLEST ANSWER IS THE RIGHT ANSWER.

WHAT IS THE SIMPLEST ANSWER?

OH, I HAVE NO IDEA.

YOU PROGRAMED ME TO SAY THAT.

WELL, TAKE THAT PHRASE OUT OF THE PROGRAM. THAT IS ENTIRELY ANNOYING OF ME.

THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU GET TO PUT THIS AWAY AND COME BACK TO IT.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

THIS IS EVERYTHING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

NO.

NO?

I HAVE A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT?

YOU HAVE ST. JUDE'S IN 45 MINUTES.

I'M VISITING SICK KIDS?

THE CHILDREN.

IN 45 MINUTES.

YOU'LL HAVE TO BUMP IT.

THERE'S THAT "NO" AGAIN.

NO.

YOU TOLD ME NO CANCELING THIS NO MATTER WHAT.

WELL, NOW I'M TELLING YOU--

LISTEN, TONY, THIS IS TONY FROM THREE DAYS AGO.

WE'RE NOT CANCELING ON THE SICK KIDS. YOU ALREADY BUMPED THEM THREE TIMES FOR AVENGERS/SAVING-THE-WORLD-RELATED EMERGENCIES, BUT...

I DON'T CARE IF WHIPLASH, BLACKOUT AND PALADIN MAGICALLY FUSE INTO ONE DECENT CRIMINAL ADVERSARY...

...YOU ARE NOT CANCELING ON THESE KIDS.

OKAY.

I DON'T CARE IF THANOS IS MARRYING PEPPER IN TIMES SQUARE AND JUSTIN HAMMER IS GIVING THE BRIDE AWAY. YOU DO NOT CANCEL.

OKAY.

I DON'T CARE IF THE SCARLET WITCH SAYS "NO MORE TONYS" AND--

OKAY!!

AND HERE HE IS...

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN...TONY STARK.

HEY, KIDS!

HI!
HI!
HI, GUYS...
YAY!
WELCOME, IRON MAN!!!
WAIT! WHERE IS IT?
WHERE IS WHAT?
YOU KNOW...
COUGH IT UP.
"COUGH IT UP?"
MAX...
COUGH *WHAT* UP?
THE *ARMOR*, DUH.
OH, THE *ARMOR*.
YOU GUYS WANTED TO SEE THE *ARMOR*.
OH MAN, IT'S NOT HERE.
WHAT?
IT'S BEING CLEANED.
YOU DIDN'T BRING THE *ARMOR*?
WHO CLEANS IT?
THE CAR WASH.
YOU'RE *SO* LYING.
MAX.
I LIKE THIS KID.
REMINDS ME OF A YOUNG HULK.
DUDE, COME ON, WHERE IS IT?
I DIDN'T BRING MY ARMOR.
AWWW...

I BROUGHT A *BUNCH* OF THEM.

YEAH!

YES!

DUDE!

ALL RIGHT!

YOU'RE, LIKE, MY *FAVORITE* AVENGER.

I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE SPIDER-MAN ISN'T HERE.

MAX.

YOU WANT TO TRY ONE ON?

ONE WHAT?

THE ARMOR.

I'M TOO SMALL FOR THAT.

HMM, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M JUST NOW NOTICING HOW *INSANELY* SHORT YOU ARE.

I'M EIGHT.

DON'T TELL ME YOUR PROBLEMS.

ARMOR! RECONFIGURE!

WHOA...

OH. MAN.

HOP IN.

CAN I?

IS IT SAFE?

SURE.

IT'S SAFER *IN THERE* THAN IT IS OUT HERE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

FRIDAY?

CLEAR SKIES.

NO SIGN OF MADAME MASQUE...

NO SIGN OF NINJAS...

NO SIGN OF DOCTOR--

OH, COME ON...

--DOOM.

YOU CAN FINISH WHATEVER THIS IS YOU'RE DOING...

I'LL WAIT.

ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME?

REALLY?

IN FRONT OF SICK KIDS?

WHAT *ARE* YOU?

OH, YEAH, YOU'RE DOCTOR DOOM. YOU'RE A *COMPLETE TOOL.*

FRIDAY?

*DOOM CLEARLY HAS A HYBRID OF MYSTIC POWER AND TECH THAT MAKES HIM **UNTRACEABLE** TO OUR SYSTEM.*

REALLY?!

I SWEAR TO GOD, I LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU WERE A MASKED, MANIACAL MANIAC.

MANIACAL MANIAC IS REDUND--

ROOFTOP. NOW.

WHY ARE YOU *HERE?*

WHY ARE *YOU?*

SICK KIDS, YOU SICK #$&#%!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP THEM, CURE THEM.

YOU'RE NOT A CLOWN, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST.

A ROBOTIC SYSTEMS SCIENTIST BUT STILL, TECHNICALLY, A SCIENTIST.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

CHICAGO.

JACKPOT

PARTY PEOOOOOPLE!

WELCOME TO THE GRAND OPENING OF THE HOTTEST NEW CLUB IN THE HOTTEST CITY IN THE WORLD!

AND LET'S GIVE A BIG HAND TO THE OWNER OF THE CLUB.

YOUR HOSTESS FOR THE EVENING!

THE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT US ALL OUT HERE TONIGHT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT...

YOU KNOW HER, YOU LOVE HER, YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

MISS MARY JANE WATSON!!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING AND MAKING MY LIFELONG DREAM COME TRUE TONIGHT.

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...

...SOME OF YOU KNOW THAT I TRIED THIS ONCE BEFORE.

I HAD A CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY.

BUT I FORGOT THE ONE THING THAT ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO OPEN UP A BUSINESS IN NEW YORK HAS TO REMEMBER--

--THAT NEW YORK CITY IS WHERE ALL OF THE SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS, CROOKS AND VIGILANTES LIVE.

ALL OF THEM.

SO, OF COURSE, THAT CLUB WAS DESTROYED.

SO I DID THE THING I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY THESE COSTUMED CRIMINALS DIDN'T DO...

...LEAVE NEW YORK.

GO SOMEWHERE WHERE THERE ARE NO AVENGERS, DEFENDERS, X-MEN, DOCTOR OCTOPUSES, DOCTOR DOOMS AND WHOEVER ELSE.

SO HERE WE ARE.

IN MY NEW FAVORITE CITY IN THE WORLD.

AND I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR COMING OUT AND MAKING THIS NIGHT SO MAGICAL.

SO DRINKS ARE ON ME, YOU MAGNIFICENT PEOPLE!

WOOOHOOO!

JACKPOT!! JACKPOT!! JACKPOT!!

OH, COME ON...HOW'D YOU FIND ME?

YOU TWEETED YOU WERE HERE.

OKAY, YEAH, WELL, THAT'S ON ME.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH ME AGAIN, YOU'LL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

NOT COME HERE ALL THREATENING.

WHO IS THIS?

THIS IS MISS WHITNEY FROST, WHO THINKS SHE CAN COME UP AND SWING A GUN IN MY FACE AND GET ME TO DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS WHENEVER SHE WANTS.

NO GUN, BEHILIO...

...I'M BEYOND GUNS NOW.

AIFTE

AAAGGHH!

AAAIIEEE!

WHY?

WHITNEY...

...THAT'S ENOUGH.

#5

I AM SO COMPLETELY AND ENTIRELY SCREWED.

SUPER HEROES.

AGAIN.

EVERY TIME.

EVERY TIME A SUPER HERO SHOWS UP IN MY LIFE, I HAVE TO START OVER.

I PUT EVERYTHING I HAD INTO THIS CLUB EVERYTHING.

I OPEN THE DOORS, AND TEN SECONDS LATER...THIS.

IF I MAY, ANYONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE COSMIC, MYSTICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL OR ANY OTHER KIND OF SUPER-POWER, I HIGHLY SUGGEST LEAVING THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY!

NOT YOU, WHITNEY FROST.

READY?

IT'S ALREADY DONE.

I'D TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU KEEP FINDING ME, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER--

--BECAUSE NOW I *AM* GOING TO KILL YOU, LIKE I SHOULD HAVE DONE YEARS AGO.

LIKE I SHOULD HAVE--

LIKE I--

WHAT?

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

OH, THAT?

I SLAPPED TOGETHER A ZERO-POINT ENERGY BUBBLE SPECIFICALLY TO CONTAIN YOU. IT BASICALLY NEUTRALIZES ANY ENERGIES YOU ARE PROJECTING--

--AND MY NEW BEST FRIEND VICTOR VON DOOM HERE, HAS TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO WHIP TOGETHER WHAT I'M SURE IS ONE BITCHIN' MYSTICAL FORCE-FIELD...

BASICALLY, YOU ARE A MYSTICAL FORCE-FIELD BURRITO WRAPPED AROUND THE ZERO-POINT ENERGY TACO, SO YOU CAN OFFICIALLY CALM YOUR CRAZY DOWN BECAUSE WHATEVER THIS IS IS OFFICIALLY SHUT DOWN.

TOO MUCH TALKING, STARK.

VICTOR VON DOOM?

I KNOW, RIGHT?

LIFE IS FUNNY THAT WAY.

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU BOTH.

OKAY, BUT HIM FIRST BECAUSE I LIKE ME MORE.

YOU SEE? SHE IS OVERCOME BY THE FORCES SHE IS TRYING TO--

DOOM, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO CALM HER DOWN?

LIKE A MYSTICAL TRANQUILIZER DART?

DOOM?

HE CAN'T HELP YOU NOW.

SHE IS ATTEMPTING TO BREACH THE ARMOR WITH AN ENERGY MATRIX THAT I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH...

...WHICH MEANS IT IS MOST PROBABLY MYSTICAL IN NATURE.

YES, FRIDAY, I--

WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT SHE HAS TAKEN HOLD OF DOCTOR DOOM AND IS ATTEMPTING TO DO THE SAME TO YOU.

YEAH...

I...

...AM GOING TO KILL...

...YOU...

...ONCE...

...AND FOR ALL.

FRIDAY?

FORCES UNKNOWN. SYSTEMS FAILING.

FORCES?

GORGONZOLA.

UH-OH.

YAAAGGH!

KRAKOOM

AGH!

FRIDAY!

WHERE'S THE WATER PARK?

AGH!

TAKE THE ARMOR OFF, TONY!

I WANT TO SEE THAT SMUG FACE OF YOURS AS I RIP IT OFF YOUR BODY.

FRIDAY?

AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A CAPTAIN BRITAIN PARTY...

FORCE COMMAND. FULL SYSTEM REBOOT NOW.

WARP SPEED, MISTER SULU.

WHITNEY, LISTEN TO ME...

YOU'RE USING POWER YOU CLEARLY ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF.

I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

THE HUMAN BODY CAN ONLY HOLD AND CONTROL SO MUCH ENERGY WITHOUT STOP VALVES IN PLACE.

IT'S MATH.

IT'S THE VERY BEST L.T.E. COVERAGE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, TONY.

YOU'RE *ALWAYS* RIGHT.

THAT'S WHY YOU ARE WHERE YOU ARE AND I AM WHERE I AM.

WHITNEY...BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I ACTUALLY DON'T WANT THIS FOR YOU.

YOU'RE PLAYING AROUND WITH STUFF YOU DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, AND I'M--

REALLY? A SECOND AGO, YOU WERE SMUGLY TELLING ME HOW YOU WERE IN CONTROL OF ME.

WHITNEY!

GOODBYE, TONY STARK.

I WONDER IF I'LL MISS YOU.

HEY!

WHAT?

TRESPASSING!

CLANGG

UM...

UH-OH...

RRR...

WHITNEY!

AND WE'RE BACK...

GO!

SYSTEMS ONLINE

MAGNET. FOCUSED ON TARGET.

DONE.

AGH!

HI.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

GO.

YOU DESTROYED MY CLUB.

SHE LOOKED FAMILIAR.

MARY JANE WATSON. SUPERMODEL.

COOL.

ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS ARE OFF THE CHARTS.

I KNOW. WHITNEY!

OH, NO.

SYMPTOMS OF DEMONIC POSSESSION.

OH, WHITNEY...

...WHY DID YOU DO THIS?

STARK!

NOW!

I'M SORRY, WHITNEY...

...I REALLY AM.

NO!

NOOOO...

N--

CLANG

GEEZ.
IN THEORY.
ARE YOU IN CONTROL OF THE ARMOR?
LAY HER DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
BANISH THE DEMON THAT HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF HER.
A *DEMON.*
FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD.
DOOM, IF THIS IS A TRICK OR--
STARK.
DOOM.
IF I WANTED THIS TO GO BADLY FOR YOU, I WOULD SIMPLY LEAVE.
THIS IS A DEMON LOOKING FOR ENTRANCE INTO THIS WORLD THROUGH THE PHYSICAL FORM OF ONE OF YOUR WORST ADVERSARIES.
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO EXPEL IT WITHOUT KILLING THE HOST BODY, WHICH WOULD MOST DEFINITELY ALLOW THE DEMON, AND OTHERS, ENTRANCE HERE?
I COULD LOOK IT UP.
YOU COULDN'T.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
CONTROL THE ARMOR.
HOLD HER DOWN.
DO NOT GIVE EVEN A MOMENT'S PAUSE. NO MATTER WHAT YOU SEE.
WHAT AM I GOING TO SEE?
READY?
NO.
ONE...
TWO...
FACE PLATE OFF.
NOW!

BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME!

DO NOT RELEASE CONTROL OF THE ARMOR!

I KNOW!

FRIDAY, HOLD HER DOWN.

TRYING.

THESE TEMPORAL ENERGY READINGS ARE TOO HIGH.

THIS ENTIRE AREA IS IN DANGER.

INFORM LOCAL AUTHORITIES. CALL DOCTOR STRANGE.

ALREADY HAVE.

CALL HIM AGAIN.

HOLD IT DOWN!

I'M TRYING!

TURN OFF YOUR COUNTERS AND USE YOUR REPULSOR RAYS TO PUSH IT BACK TO THE GROUND.

OKAY!

GOOD IDEA.

I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THERE ON MY OWN.

DEMON!

I CAST YOU OUT!

TONY!

GAH!

SCAN.

DONE.

I'M NOT READING ANYTHING I HAVE A REFERENCE FOR, BUT...

...ALL VITALS ARE NORMAL.

SHE'S STILL BREATHING.

HUH.

LUCKY.

YOU WERE *VERY* LUCKY TODAY.

ATTEMPTED DEMONIC ENTRANCE INTO THE PHYSICAL PLANE DOESN'T ALWAYS END THIS WELL.

STRANGE, STEPHEN, THANK YOU.

WHAT-- WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

PEOPLE PLAYING WITH FORCES BEYOND THEM.

IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY.

(I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU.)

HOW DID YOU STOP HER?

I DIDN'T.

DOOM DID.

DOOM?

HAS LEFT THE BUILDING. HE IS NO LONGER ANYWHERE IN MY SCANNABLE VICINITY.

VICTOR VON DOOM WAS *HERE?*

HE WAS *RIGHT* HERE.

OH, I BELIEVE YOU.

CAN YOU UN-ARMOR HER?

IS IT SAFE?

UH, SURE.

DOOM HELPED YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS?

CRAZY, RIGHT?

IF DOOM DOES, IN FACT, WANT TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF...

...BOTH YOU AND I KNOW IT CAN BE DONE.

YOU AND I KNOW MORE THAN MOST.

BUT FOR DOOM, THAT IS ONE *HELL* OF A HUGE LEAF TO TURN OVER.

DOESN'T MEAN IT CAN'T BE DONE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HER?

I CAN FIX HER UP METAPHYSICALLY.

THEN HAND HER OVER TO S.H.I.E.L.D.

SHE'S DAMAGED GOODS, BUT SHE'S NOT-- SHE'S NOT LIKE-- SHE--

SHE'S A HUMAN BEING. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.

IS IT ME OR DOES THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF THIS OTHERWORLDLY DEMONIC STUFF GOING ON LATELY?

I MEAN, MORE THAN USUAL.

YES.

IS THERE SOMETHING I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT?

ALWAYS.

ARE YOU SURE YOUR NAME ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE DOCTOR CRYPTIC?

YOU'RE WELCOME.

SERIOUSLY, THANKS FOR COMING HERE AND HELPING WITH THIS.

OF COURSE.

I HAD TO.

WE'RE AWESOME FACIAL HAIR BROS.

WOW.

ALL OF THIS WAS TOTALLY WORTH IT JUST FOR THAT.

3 DAYS LATER...

SUPER HEROES

AGAIN

SUPER

HI.

OH NO

NO.

NO WHAT?

WHATEVER THIS IS. NO.

I'M TONY STARK.

I KNOW.

I CAME BY TO SAY I'M SORRY I MESSED UP YOUR CLUB.

PLEASE TELL ME YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO HIT ON ME AT MY LOWEST POINT.

WHAT? NO.

YES, YOU DID.

THAT'S WHAT GUYS DO.

WELL, THEY *DO*.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT *THIS* IS.

FIRST OF ALL, I AM *SEEING* SOMEONE.

AND, FRANKLY, I'M NOT SURE *THIS* IS YOUR LOWEST POINT.

IF IT IS, CONGRATS, IT'S NOT THE-END-OF-THE-WORLD LOW.

WELL, TELL THAT TO MY SOUL.

EVEN IF YOU OFFER TO REBUILD MY CLUB BECAUSE YOU'RE A FANCY BILLIONAIRE, MY CLUB-OWNING DAYS ARE KABLOOEY.

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T--I CAN'T RECOVER FROM A P.R. NIGHTMARE LIKE THIS.

EITHER WAY, MY INSURANCE WILL COVER THE CLUB. DAMAGE CONTROL IS ALREADY ON THE CASE.

BUT I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE A CAREER CHANGE.

UH...

...I DON'T WANT TO BE IRON MAN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR HIM?

IN WHAT CAPACITY?

I KNOW YOU CAN'T TELL BY LOOKING AT ME, BUT MY LIFE IS, WELL, OUT OF CONTROL.

I NEED SOMEONE TO ORGANIZE IT.

THE IMPORTANT STUFF THAT KEEPS SLIPPING THROUGH THE CHAOS CRACKS.

MY CHARITY STUFF, MY PHILANTHROPIC STUFF, MY LIFE GOAL STUFF...

...SOMEONE WHO IS USED TO THE CRAZY OF THE SUPER HERO WORLD, SOMEONE WHO COULD PUT A CLUB LIKE *THAT* TOGETHER, *AND* WOULD WHACK A DEMON-POSSESSED MASTER SUPER VILLAIN IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD WITH A MICROPHONE STAND.

IS *THAT* WHAT SHE WAS?

I HAVE A SUPER-AWESOME A.I. TO HANDLE ALL MY GENIUS/BUSINESS STUFF.

BUT MY LIFE, MY BRAND, IS IN SHAMBLES.

WHY ME?

I FELT BAD ABOUT THE CLUB.

I ASKED AROUND ABOUT YOU AND I HEAR YOU ARE THE REAL DEAL.

I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT YOUR SUPER HERO CONNECTIONS ARE, BUT--

YOU'RE REALLY *NOT* HITTING ON ME?

DOES, LIKE, *EVERYONE* HIT ON YOU?

YES!

WELL, YOU USED TO BE A MODEL. I SUPPOSE IT HAPPENS.

THINK ABOUT IT.

OFFER IS IN YOUR E-MAIL.

IT'S FLATTERING.

GIVE IT A TRY.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE JOB OR ME, YOU CAN BAIL.

BUT YOU'LL LIKE ME.

WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

OH, I HAVE A PREPARED LIST.

FRIDAY!

YOU ASKED THE QUESTION.

SUPER HEROES.

AGAIN.

I REMAIN SO COMPLETELY AND ENTIRELY SCREWED.

NEXT: THE WAR MACHINES!

#1 YOUNG GUNS VARIANT BY NICK BRADSHAW & PAUL MOUNTS

#1 HIP-HOP VARIANT BY BRIAN STELFREEZE

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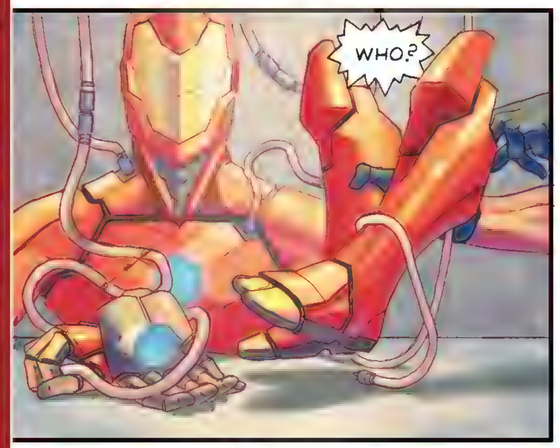
#1 VARIANT BY ADI GRANOV

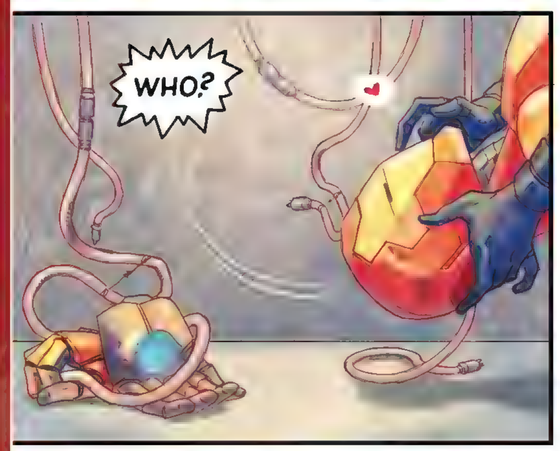
#1 VARIANT BY SKOTTIE YOUNG

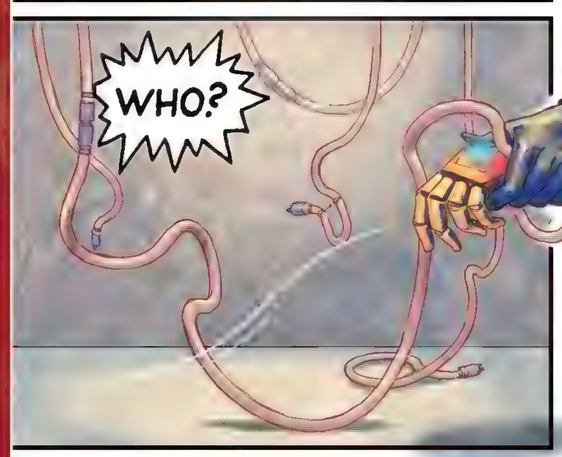
#1 YOUNG GUNS VARIANT BY DAVID MARQUEZ & MATTHEW WILSON

#1 DESIGN VARIANT BY DAVID MARQUEZ

#1 YOUNG GUNS VARIANT BY SARA PICHELLI & JASON KEITH





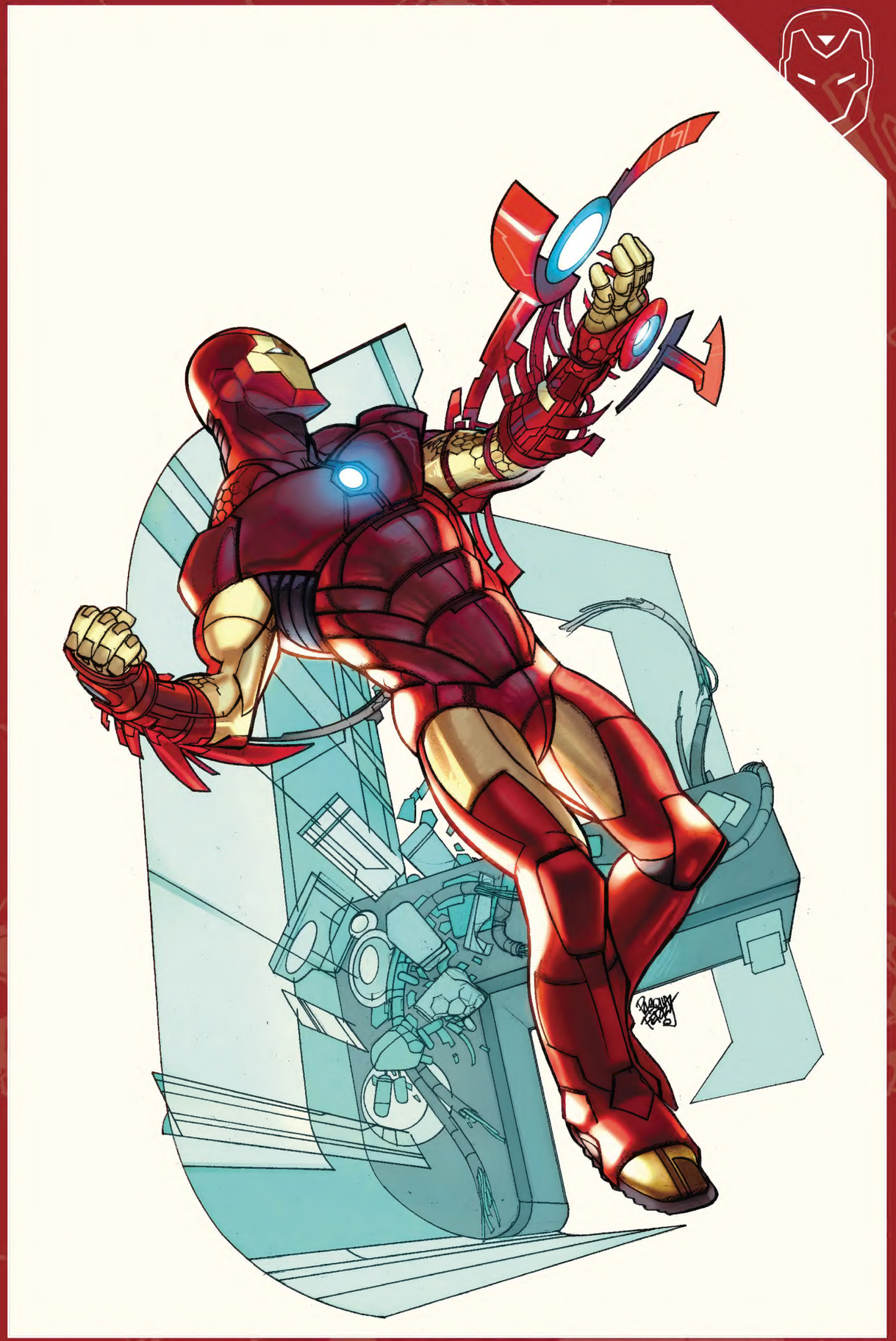


#1 PARTY VARIANT BY YASMINE PUTRI

#1 YOUNG GUNS VARIANT BY VALERIO SCHITI & JASON KEITH

#1 VARIANT BY RYAN STEGMAN & RICHARD ISANOVE

#1 CLASSIC VARIANT BY BRUCE TIMM



#1 VARIANT BY PASQUAL FERRY

#2 VARIANT BY ALEX GARNER

#3 VARIANT BY STEVE EPTING

NEW ARMOR. NEW VILLAINS.

IT'S A BRAND-NEW UNIVERSE FOR ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SUPER HEROES!

WITH A NEW SUPPORTING CAST and a new purpose, Tony Stark takes on a challenge that will redefine his history! In a twist that will turn the Marvel Universe on its head, Iron Man gets a shocking new ally – he hopes. And it's just in time for a battle with an old foe: Madame Masque! The tormented Whitney Frost is more deadly than ever, and she bears a doozy of a grudge. Shell-head's incredible armor will be put through its paces in a story that will shock and awe – but it's Tony's new teammate that will have everyone talking. Brian Michael Bendis takes the genius, billionaire, playboy philanthropist and makes him a superstar!

COLLECTING ***INVINCIBLE IRON MAN (2015) #1-5*** – BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, DAVID MARQUEZ AND JUSTIN PONSOR.

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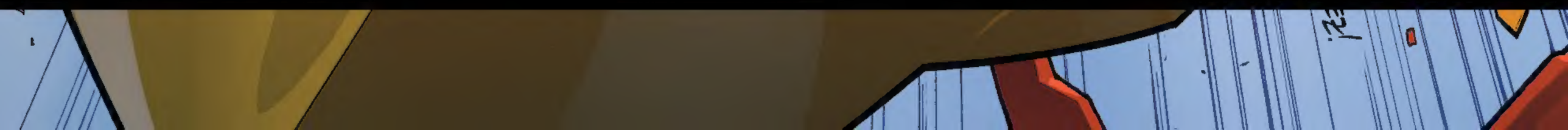
MARVEL



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